

Pilgrimage for Peace and Life

—Johanna J. Ceapach Choinn

"If I am not for myself, who will be for me? But if I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?" — Rabbi Hillel

"It is not your obligation to complete the task [of creating a better world] but neither are you to desist from it." — Rabbi Tarfon

A few months ago I was shamelessly moping around my house. My inner child was on the verge of having a tantrum and my brain was whirling with unproductive thoughts: "Oy, the world is in a shambles (so what's new?), I am unemployed and a few pounds over my ideal weight and I am feeling more feckless than ever. So what's a nice giorret (Jew by Choice) like me to do in a world like this?" And then it happened, I heard this voice, "Don't worry, and please don't kvetch, I have just the thing," says my kindly-old-probably-bearded-endlessly-romanticized inner chassidoid sage and scholar, "What you need, my friend, is a long walk. A pilgrimage maybe. . . . Yes, that's it, a pilgrimage for peace and life, say from Auschwitz to Tel Aviv. On foot of course, and I think it would be best if you undertook this trek in the winter and by way of the former Yugoslavia. I guarantee this will improve your situation considerably, now go, I have a young inner child here who needs some nice soup."

A message like this you don't argue with, so when my mother, may she let the rest of us rest in peace, called shortly thereafter encouraging me to participate in the Interfaith Pilgrimage for Peace and Life 1995, what could I say? Rabbi Tarfon said, "It is not your obligation to complete the task [of creating a better world] but neither are you to desist from it." Ahright ahready, I'll go, I'll go. And so, on November 30 I will leave my wonderful Bay Area home, my partner of six years, Bon, and my two cats to schlepp across the permafrost of Eastern Europe. Over the course of three months I will walk from Auschwitz, Poland to Tel Aviv, Israel by way of Croatia, Bosnia/Herzegovina and Serbia. The walk is being

organized by the Japanese Buddhist monastic order, Nipponzan Myohoji, and will include walkers of all faiths from all over the world. Nipponzan Myohoji is known for its unflagging efforts to bring about world peace through interfaith dialogue, environmental and human rights activism, support of indigenous peoples, the building of peace pagodas, and pilgrimages in disturbed regions of the world. The full course of the Pilgrimage runs 8 months and will ultimately arrive in Hiroshima, Japan. The walk commemorates the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

I am undertaking this walk for a number of reasons. On the surface level I am making a break from my endlessly frustrating attempt to play music for a living; on a second level I am testing myself and my relationship; on a third level I am hoping that I can draw attention to the suffering in the world in hopes of inspiring Tikkun Olam; on a fourth level I am bringing myself into close proximity with that suffering as a witness; on a fifth level I am putting my faith in spirituality rather than politics (Torah will keep my feet moving, Bill Clinton probably not); on a sixth level I am deeply embracing Judaism; on a seventh level I am entering into Abraham, Sarah and God's covenant, talking about it when I rise up and when I go on my way.

Each day will begin at 5 am with morning prayers. I will use the Sha'ar Zahav Morning prayer book. This will be the first time in my life that I will begin each day with a blast of Jewish ritual and prayer and I feel deeply blessed to have the liturgy of Sha'ar Zahav as a guide. We will have a little breakfast and then at 7 am we begin walking. We will walk an average of 20 miles a day — rain or snow or shine, 6 days a week. Shabbat will take on a whole new meaning I am sure. I may even begin to understand why the

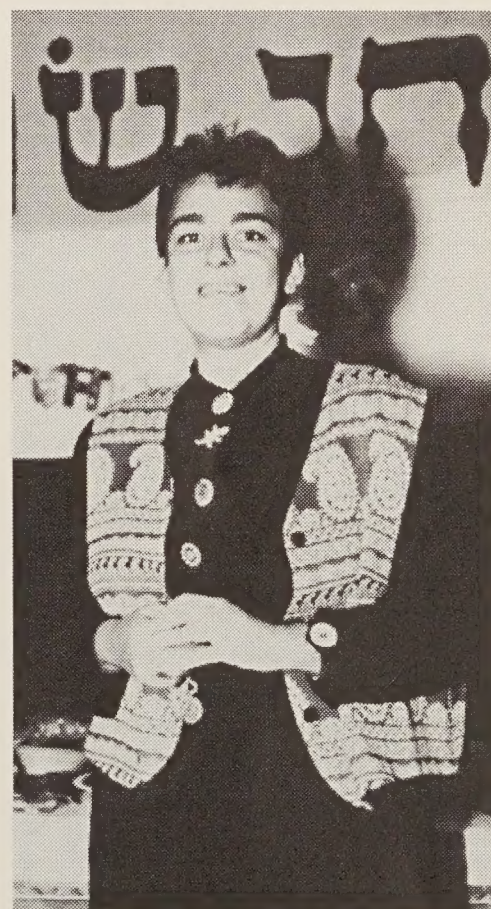
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Treat Your Spiritual Self to a Weekend in the Country

Are you weary of tasks, schedules, lists, bills — all the demands of daily life? Would you welcome a chance to spend some peaceful, positive time, exploring yourself, your spirit, what you personally know as divine and good? Consider this special CSZ opportunity: a weekend in the country with your own loved ones and your CSZ family, exploring and celebrating our spiritual selves.

From February 17-19, we have reserved Camp Swig, the UAHC center in the redwood and oak forest of Big Basin State Park, near Saratoga. We will be coming together there to explore, build, and celebrate all the ways we are: our beliefs, our spirit of Jewishness

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Greta Miskatel, Party Organizer. Hanukah party, December 3. Photo by Michael Bettinger.

Our Vibrant Tradition of Change

Last month I wrote about the challenge of keeping our communal life fresh and exciting while still honoring, and reaping the benefits of, our traditions and the hard work of our congregation in the past. Moses chose to stay in the desert, rather than return to Egypt, because, he said, "I consciously prefer that which is in the process of creation to that which is finished and known." This challenge to push ahead into uncharted waters is before us each day; especially now that we have such a rich and established tradition as a congregation. How, then, do we strike a balance between tradition and change?



Tiela Chalmers

I promised that this month I would offer some ideas on how to do this, both individually and as a congregation. (What *was* I thinking of?) Well, as a congregation, we can explore different kinds of services. Our Friday night services at 8:15 are wonderful, and demonstrate the power of our "CSZ traditional" liturgy. But other kinds of services might be wonderful, too, and meet other needs. What about a more conservative service on Friday evening, mostly or all in Hebrew? What about a shorter family service at 7 pm, with parts for kids to play, and a more boisterous noise level? Maybe a more meditative service, with more time for quiet reflection and guided imagery?

There are other things we have not provided because we did not perceive a real demand for them: a network to connect volunteers with people who have a hard time getting to services due to health or age. Childcare during Friday evening services. Some forum in which the Kadimah kids show off their new skills and talents to the rest of the congregation. Instead of assuming that if it didn't work or wasn't needed then, it won't be now, we should examine again whether changing circumstances call for a different answer today.

Finally, we need new people in leadership. Much as we try, those of us

who have been around a while tend to have the same perspectives from year to year. New leaders bring with them new visions, new assumptions, new ideas. Of course, it is not just enough to bring new people onto committees and the Board — we also need to make it safe for them to Question Authority (as they say). Our leaders are both wise and opinionated, and years of being in Jewish meetings has made them bold about expressing their views authoritatively. While this is fine, we need to make sure to leave room for others to develop this same attitude (or maybe even a different attitude!)

New ideas also come from outside our community. As we become (dare I say it) more "mainstream," the work and thought done by other congregations has more and more relevance to our congregational challenges. By attending events through the Reform movement (like the upcoming UAHC Regional Biennial), talking to people we know at other synagogues, and reading other synagogue newsletters, we can continue to push ourselves in new directions. A new oneg system now on the drawing board is one example of that process (stay tuned!).

So what can you, personally, do to further this creative process? Here are a few ideas:

- Send the Ritual Committee (care of the CSZ office) a copy of a favorite poem, reading or song you think might be good for a service;
- When you hear or see something new, try to suspend your natural crankiness about change, and look to see if it works;
- Apply your inquiring mind to the congregation around you. Ask yourself, "Why do we do this?" "How come we never do that?" or "Has anyone considered doing it this way, instead?" And ask us about it, too — there is a suggestion box in the oneg room, and my phone number is on page 10 of this newsletter. (Now, please remember to be open-minded: it might be that we tried it that way last year, and it didn't work, and here's why.);
- Join a committee, and put in your two cents. All of our work is a work in progress. Pick up a pen or a brush and join us!

Neighborhood Chavurot News

CSZ's neighborhood chavurah program continues to grow. Here are the upcoming events:

Marin/Sonoma Chavurah. After a highly successful Shabbat dinner at the home of Paul Cohen and Bob Gutterman, the group scheduled a second event. On Friday night, January 6, they'll be celebrating Shabbat in Sebastopol at Shirley Liberman and Margaret Livingston's home. If you need details, call Shirley or Margaret (707/829-8876).

Richmond/Sunset District Chavurah. Fifteen "avenue" members celebrated Shabbat together at Robin Leonard's home this past December. On Saturday, February 4, they'll be gathering at 6 pm for a havdalah potluck dinner at the home of Sylvia Weisenberg. Sylvia will be sending out invitations to all Richmond and Sunset district members. If you don't hear from her by mid-January, give her a call (665-1912).

Diamond Heights/Glen Park. Batya (Betty) Kalis is inviting CSZ's Diamond Heights and Glen Park members to her home for a 7 pm Shabbat potluck dinner on February 24. You should receive an invitation with the details by late January. If you don't, please call Batya (821-3855). **Note:** A lot of CSZ members live in the 94131 zip code area. We will do our best to designate between Diamond Heights/Glen Park and Noe Valley (a different chavurah). If you feel our designation is erroneous, let us know.

World Union Plans Paris Convention

The 27th International Convention of the World Union of Progressive Judaism will be held in Paris, France from June 29-July 3. The theme is "Tikkun Olam...Can We Repair the World for the 21st Century?" Any member of a UAHC congregation may attend as a delegate.

Prior to the convention, there will be an optional week-long tour of synagogues and Jewish historical landmarks. Following the convention, delegates may take an optional 4-day tour of Paris and its environs. For complete information, write the World Union's office: 838 Fifth Avenue, New York NY 10021, Attn: Convention Desk.

Ocho Kandelikas

This year's Chanukah Party was a great event in Sephardic style. Sephardic and Mizrahi blessings were performed by Jonathan Seidel. Our Kadimah kids lit the seven Chanukah candles, dedicating each candle to a different segment of the Jewish world. Sara Felder displayed her enormous talent as a fire juggler, dazzling us all in a beautiful display of moving torches.

Bon Brown sang some beautiful Sephardic tunes, and then taught us how to sing "Ocho Kandelikas" (Eight Candles). The klezmer band also had us singing "Adio Kerida" (Bye, My Beloved). Everyone enjoyed the Middle Eastern dishes, including burmuelos (Sephardic latkes), and dancing in a serpent-like procession around the tables.

All that energy would not have been possible without the invaluable efforts and determination of Greta Miskatel. Greta's drive and hard work stimulated the large group of volunteers:

Nikki Bengal, Geoff Benjamin, Danielle Billinkoff, Bon Brown, Cheryl Bryan, Diana Buchbinder, Emma Buchbinder, Erin Buchbinder, Tiela Chalmers, Michael Chertok, Amy Clark, Ellie Cohen, Paul Cohen, Judith Cohen, Alison Cohen, Jonathan Comisar, Rosalinda del Moral, Virginia Donohue, Gene Eichenbaum, Steve Elman, Sara Felder, Cody Fine, Jeff Forman, Ethan Frazin, Jeff Friedman, Jason Gaber, Sharma Gaponoff, Debbie Gelber, Allan Giannini, Ellen Gierson, Simon Glinsky, Allan Gold, Jonathan

Goldman, Ellen Goldstein, Rafael Gonzalez, Bob Gordon, Judith Graboyes, Tom Holt, Stephan Howard, Yehuda Hyman, Alex Ingersoll, Stan Kern, Mark Klaiman, Nancy Koch, Ethan Kuluk, Robin Leonard, Sydney Levy, Ron Lezell, Jeffrey Lilly, Eloise Magenheim, Deborah Marquez, Greta Miskatel, Paul Nemrow, Lisa Niver, Dev Noily, Carolyn Pines, Ellen Press, Ora Prochovnick, Nathan Robinson, Max Rossoff Nichols, Jeff Rubin, Lea Salem, Sharyn Saslaffsky, Randy Schiller, Jonathan Seidel, Lane Schickler, David Stein, Syd Strong, Mark Troy, Rachel Wahba, David Weinstein, Sylvia Weisenberg, Larry Wexler, Mike Zimmerman.

Camp Scholarship Money Available

Applications for "camperships" — scholarships to Jewish summer residential camps — are available now at the office or from the camps themselves. The Jewish Community Endowment Newhouse Fund has provided additional funds this year, in an attempt to meet all needs for financial assistance, and to enable as many children as possible to have the summer camp experience. All applications, which must be filled out and sent directly to the camp/s of your choice, are processed anonymously and confidentially. Deadlines vary but none falls later than mid-March.

UAHC Regional Biennial

On January 20-22, the Monterey Marriott will be filled with hundreds of Reform Jews convening for the 19th Biennial Convention of the Northern California Region of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. It's an event not to be missed — and at least ten CSZ'ers have already signed up!

More than 20 workshops will be offered, including such seminars as The Roots of Jewish Social Justice, The Role of the Non-Jew in the Congregation, Responding to the Changing Fiscal Circumstances of Our Members, Our Congregation Has AIDS, Developing Women's Rituals, and When, If Ever, Does Reform Judaism Say No? We'll also gather together on Friday evening and Saturday morning for Shabbat services.

Featured speakers include Rabbi Alexander Schindler, President of the UAHC, Rabbi David Saperstein, Director of the Religious Action Center (Washington, DC), Rabbi Uri Regev, Director of the Religious Action Center (Jerusalem) and Seth Moskowitz, UAHC Director of Development. (Many synagogue members met Seth at this year's leadership advance.)

The biennial is open to all synagogue members — involved or not. If you want to get more involved with Sha'ar Zahav, this is a great introduction. If you want to move into leadership at CSZ, there will be plenty for you at the biennial. If you're already in leadership, the biennial can help you hone your skills.

Registration costs \$195 and includes the workshops and six meals. Hotel registration is separate.

For more information, call Robin Leonard, our UAHC regional board representative, 386-7876.



Hanukah Party, December 3. Photo by Michael Bettinger.

Thanks

Thanks to Catherine Dodd, RN, MS, Don Abrams, MD and Neil Kudler, MD for their contributions as lecturers on the issues of Bioethics. Their insights and perspectives on the Health Care Initiative (Prop. 186), assisted suicide and end-of-life decision-making were stimulating and left us with much food for thought.

December Va'ad Report

—Cheryl Bryan

Mike Zimmerman reported that the Ma'ayan Campaign has raised almost \$12,000 to date and that the Chanukah Raffle raised about \$2500. The Chanukah Party was under budget; it lost money, however, in part because many party volunteers did not pay for tickets. The Va'ad agreed to examine this issue further. Mike also reported that Friday night pushke donations have been very low.

Joe Hample reported that Batya Kalis is the new Editorial Coordinator for the Newsletter. In order to contain Newsletter costs, it was agreed that future issues will be kept to 12 pages, all material be given to the typesetter on disc and that committees be charged for inserts. The Va'ad thanked Joe Hample and Mike Zimmerman for all their hard work.

Judith Cohen reported on the upcoming congregational retreat at Camp Swig scheduled for Feb. 17-19. The Va'ad voted to allocate \$800 from the Adult Education Restricted Fund to cover the costs for scholarships and materials associated with the weekend. It was agreed that childcare costs be spread among all who attend.

The Kadimah Budget was increased by \$260 to cover the costs of a monthly program for K-2 children. This increase is to be recouped by charging tuition for the program.

It was announced that Membership and Dues Committees are working more closely together to streamline the process for new members. Seven new members were approved.

Tiela encouraged people to attend the UAHC biennial in Monterey in January.

The Va'ad thanked Greta Miskatel and everyone else who worked so hard on the Chanukah Party.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm. A closed session immediately followed.

Naches

To Evan Kuluk on his Bar Mitzvah.

To Allan Giannini on his entrance into the covenant of the Jewish people.

To David Angel on his new job.

To Lyssa Friedman on receiving her Master's degree in Public Administration from USF.

To Bonnie Bishop on her entrance into the covenant of the Jewish people.

Spiritual Weekend

Continued from page 1

and our spirit of family, with discussions, worship, meals together, singing and dancing and other creative ways of developing and expressing our spiritual selves.

Your weekend will include cabin accommodations and all meals from Friday dinner through Sunday lunch. Meals will be served in Jewish family style, and options for vegetarians will be provided. We will of course have child care for the younger folks, and older kids can participate in special activities designed for them, including special "slumber party" accommodations at night.

The cost for the whole weekend is a real bargain: \$100 for adults, \$80 for teens, \$65 for kids from 6 to 12, \$45 for kids from 3 to 5 years, and only \$20 for those less than 3 years old. A registration form is available from the office. The final registration deadline is February 3, but space is limited, so contact the office as soon as possible. If you have any questions, call Claire Rappoport (824-5007) or Judith Cohen (927-2247).

Women's Chavurah Winter Activities

The Women's Chavurah is planning two activities for the months of January and February. On Sunday, January 29, at 3:00 pm, we will be seeing a new play at Theatre Rhinoceros, "Karla and Grif", directed by Adele Prandini. Written by Canadian lesbian playwright Vivian Laxdel, this charming tale of two young girls' love affair at summer camp won the 1990 National Canadian Playwrights Competition. We have reserved a block of 20 tickets at discount, so phone Sylvia Weisenberg (665-1912) or Donna Rabinowitz (864-5432) now. After the show, we'll go out for coffee or dinner nearby. Theatre Rhino is located at 2926 16th St. in the Inner Mission District.

On Sunday, February 12, at 1:00 pm in the Synagogue Library, we are having our second annual Mah Jongg teach-in, once again taught by CSZ's own Mah Jongg maven, Robin Leonard and friends. We need at least 8 persons total to play 2 tables. We'll be ordering vegetarian Chinese takeout for lunch, cost to be divided amongst those planning to eat. Sodas will be provided by the Chavurah.

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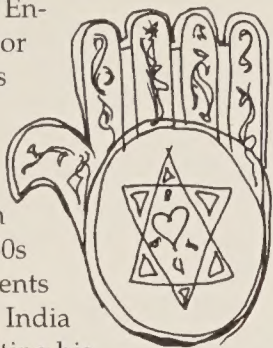
A Community in Burma

—Rachel Wahba, © 1994

In October, I promised I would finally get to writing about the synagogue in Burma. I mentioned Victor "Kelly", ne' Bashi, in that column; (he made it up, the "Kelly", to sound English). Born Victor Bashi (he now goes by Victor Kelly Bashi), he was part of our extended family in Japan in the 1950s and 60s. My parents first met him in India while he was visiting his brother in Calcutta in the 40s. There was a thriving community of Baghdadi Jews, mostly merchants, who settled in Bombay, Calcutta, and Rangoon. Victor's family trajectory spanned a move from their native Baghdad, to Calcutta, and then to Burma, where he was born and raised. As a young man he left Rangoon to make his fortune in Kobe, Japan shortly before WW2, and continues to make his home there today. We have remained in contact, and since my mother died almost three years ago now, I have taken over the correspondence. Thus, I came to know of the synagogue in Rangoon, Burma, from an article Victor clipped and sent to me.

Presently there are plans to preserve this synagogue as a marker of Jewish history and heritage, as this community (like others in the Near East today) is no longer what it used to be. Once a thriving community of Sephardim, mostly from Iraq, the population before WW2 numbered approximately 2,500 in the congregation. Now it seems the synagogue is used and maintained by some 20 or so remaining Jews in Rangoon. During the war a majority of the community were evacuated to India and England, and only a few families returned to Burma when the war was over.

Musmeah Yeshua synagogue was founded in 1896 and it has been kept up



beautifully. Orthodox of course (there are no other options in Sephardi tradition), the balcony on the second floor is reserved for the women during services. Downstairs remains the domain of the men congregating around the *teba* / bima, always in the center of the sanctuary in Sephardi synagogues. Ceiling fans keep the air circulating in the tropical climate.

The synagogue is open daily, visitors are very welcome, and because the remaining 20 or so (male) regulars in the vicinity are observant, there continues to be a minyan. As there are descendants of the original settlers living today with their families in the suburbs outside of Rangoon, I wonder if they come with their children during the High Holy Days and fill the synagogue with some of the vitality reminiscent of the early days of Musmeah Yeshua... the article did not say. So, if you find yourself there, at #85, 26th St., Rangoon, Burma, let us know!

Onegs

These generous people sponsored onegs during the month of December:

- 2 **Steve Weitz**, in honor of the first birthday of Sophie Rose Macks.
- 9 **Kaiser Permanente**, with thanks to CSZ for seven years of Sunday brunches.
- 16 **Sarah Goodman**, in memory of Isidore Goodman and Fanny Satinger Goodman.
- 23 **David Weinstein**, in celebration of the lives of Bryn Stern, Rose & Izzy Weinstein and Evelyn Wolfer.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Birthdays

January

- 1 Desmond Bernstein
- 1 Armando Miranda-Mendoza
- 2 Keith Barton
- 2 Lori Ubell
- 4 Sarah Goodman
- 4 Maggie Rochlin
- 4 Judith Baer
- 5 Rebecca Tarin
- 6 Nathan Robinson
- 7 Andrew Thal
- 9 Max Rossoff Nichols
- 9 Laurie Hauer
- 10 Peter Altman
- 11 Ellen Gierson
- 11 Dvora Honigstein
- 12 Tiela Chalmers
- 12 Florence Nacamulli
- 13 Alapai Michels
- 13 Lisa Brand
- 14 Andrew Wariner
- 15 Jacqueline Angela Mauro
- 16 Deena Lahn
- 17 Gabriel Meyer-Edlin
- 18 Emily Miller
- 19 Mike Rankin
- 19 Ellen Lewin
- 20 Scott Levine
- 21 Maia Ettinger
- 21 Johanna Ceapach Choinn
- 22 Henri Chris Neilson
- 22 Lauren Ok Sun Kim
- 22 Nathan Kling
- 23 Greta Miskatel
- 24 Margaret Hochfelder
- 25 Mischa Singer-Fierer
- 25 Marcy Whitebook
- 25 Neil Hart
- 28 Alexandra Blachman-Gentile
- 29 Jacob Montgomery
- 30 Ruth Schoenbach

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

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Members' Yahrzeits

- 1/8 Cheryl Orvis
- 1/9 Jerry Davis
- 1/18 Keith Fenton
- 1/20 George Ash

Eclectic Jewish Folk Rock Group To Perform In San Francisco on March 4

Safam in Concert

Everyone has a favorite musical style: jazz, rock and roll, reggae, country-western, gospel or klezmer. But how about a band that incorporates all these forms, and more?

The Boston-based Jewish folk rock group, Safam (which means 'moustache' in Hebrew), has synthesized Chassidic, cantorial and various contemporary styles to create its own brand of American Jewish music. The six-man band has blended traditional themes and texts — in both Hebrew and English — with modern music throughout its 20 year history of crafting and performing the "Jewish-American Sound."

Jewish groups throughout the United States and Canada have thrilled to the distinctive sounds of Safam in concert for the past two decades, taking Safam's music home with them on the group's eight recordings and recently-released "Greatest Hits" double-album. Safam has had a positive effect on Jewish youth as schools, camps and youth groups use their songs. Other original songs ruminate on contemporary topics such as Ethiopian Jewry and Jewish life cycle events, and historical themes connected to the Maccabees, Purim and

our Biblical forebears. New settings of prayers like *Ma Tovu* and *Adon Olam* round out their repertoire.

Noted Jewish singer/actor Theodore Bikel has written: "It is gratifying that Safam combines a respect for tradition with innovative music...a memory of yesterday within a song of tomorrow. [They] are doing something very valuable. It is also extremely enjoyable."

Safam's upcoming debut concert in San Francisco is not to be missed. Current and future Safam fans can hear Safam perform live at Temple Emanu-El (2 Lake Street in San Francisco) on Saturday night, March 4 at 7:30 p.m. This community-wide concert is being co-sponsored by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav. Tickets are now available through City Box Office at 392-4400, with discounts available for children, students and seniors.

The "local angle" (as Herb Caen likes to call it) is that Safam's lead singer Dan Funk is the older brother of our own member, Jonathan Funk. Over the years, Jonathan has introduced various Safam melodies at Sha'ar Zahav; now you can hear the real thing. We hope to see you there!

CSZ Goes High Tech

—Robert A. Sterman

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is entering the information superhighway. The first attempt is to see how many members of the congregation have an E-mail address that is linked to the Internet.

Do you belong to America On-line, Compuserve, Prodigy, Delphi, Netcom, CRL, GENie, Hooked.net, or another online service? All of these have E-mail capabilities on the Internet. So do some local BBS's (Backdoor, Eye Contact, etc.). Additionally, many businesses have Internet E-mail capabilities.

Why the Internet? If you have a link to the Internet, you can send E-mail to virtually anyone in the world who has an Internet E-mail connection.

If you have an Internet E-mail address, send an E-mail to rsterman@hooked.net and tell me to add you to the congregation's E-mail mailing list.

The goal for now is to establish a CSZ mailing list. Down the road, the congregation may choose to send copies of the *Forward* via E-mail, rather than the US Postal Service; thus, we would save some mailing costs.

If you are not yet online but would like more information about the Internet, you can call me at 864-3491.

Pilgrimage

Continued from page 1

traditional penalties for not observing Shabbat were so severe. We will be hosted by supporters along the way, we will eat what they offer and sleep on floors in churches, temples, hostels and community centers. In the former Yugoslavia we will have places to sleep but we will have to bring our own food and we will have to carry our own gear. If the borders of Bosnia aren't open we will work in refugee camps. Think I ought to consider a career in vacation planning?? OK OK it was just a thought.

The Pilgrimage will begin with a 4-day convocation in Auschwitz which opens on the last day of Chanukah (in fact the gathering in Auschwitz will be occurring simultaneously with the Mizrachi Chanukah gathering in San Francisco). On the last night of Chanukah the warm light of 200 fully lit menorahs will fill the frozen halls of the

camps at Auschwitz and Birkenau. In an atmosphere of prayer for those martyred by the incalculable criminality perpetrated at this former concentration camp, we participants in this convocation, representing many nations and faiths, will attempt to understand the magnitude of Auschwitz and of holocaust as it extends to the far corners of this suffering earth today. Nothing will ever erase the degradation of Auschwitz and the myriad other camps, but as a Jewish lesbian I feel I must go there to pray; to offer my spirit to that place of so much agony in the hope that it will come back to me stronger, more compassionate and with stronger resolve to fight the insanity of prejudice and oppression which plagues our world today.

On December 8 the walk will begin. As pilgrims we will offer our prayers and our ears to those we meet along our way. We will listen to their stories and

will repeat their stories along our way and when we return to our homes. We will work in refugee camps and will share evenings of song and friendship. And we will carry our own stories back home with us too. I will do my best to send you reports from the road and I will be thinking of you from Auschwitz to Vienna, from Zagreb to Beograd and from the Golan Heights through the West Bank to Jerusalem. I can't believe it, it's finally coming true: Next year I will be in Jerusalem

Shalom.

"Civilization is not a matter of having electric lights, nor flying by airplanes, nor making atomic bombs. Civilization means not killing human beings, not destroying things, not waging war, but instead respecting each other." — The most venerable Nichidatsu Fujii (founder of the Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist order)

See page 9 for Pilgrimage update

Israel Update

Israel's Supreme Court recently handed down a long-awaited judgment in favor of El Al steward Jonathan Danilowitz in his suit against his employer for equal spousal benefits for his partner of 15 years. Chief Justice Aharon Barak said, "It is clear to me that depriving a same-sex partner of this (travel) benefit is discriminatory. Is separation from a partner of the same sex easier than separation from a partner of the opposite sex?"

This ruling is another important example of the judicial and legislative gains which Israeli gays and lesbians have earned, beyond those we enjoy in the U.S. There have been a number of recent pro-gay Knesset (Parliament) votes and high profile court cases. In 1988, sodomy was decriminalized, followed by a 1992 vote amending the nation's labor law to prohibit anti-gay discrimination in the workplace. Last year, the country's military policy was revised, allowing lesbians and gays to serve openly at all levels.

You can obtain further information about Israel's gay/lesbian community by writing to The Society for the Protection of Personal Rights, P.O.B. 37604 Tel Aviv, Israel 61375. Of course, they would welcome your financial support.

Celebration of Education

A week-long celebration of Jewish education will be held in the Bay Area during the week of January 30 - February 5. Called "A Feast of Jewish Learning," it is designed to spotlight the wide range of Jewish educational opportunities available locally. A menu of these opportunities will be distributed with the *Jewish Bulletin* and is produced by a consortium of local Jewish organizations led by the Bureau of Jewish Education.

ISRAEL TRAVEL: Remember, CSZ will be sponsoring its return trip to Israel from April 22 to May 5, 1996. The estimated price per person for this high quality trip is \$2,899 (land only packages are available). For further information or if you'd like to assist in the trip planning, please contact CSZ's Israel Chavurah Chair, Ron Lezell, 626-5748. Available in the CSZ library is a 45-minute video tape of CSZ's May 1993 trip to Israel.

The United Jewish Appeal is sponsoring its first ever trip to Israel specifically geared towards the gay and lesbian community. Scheduled for December 18-27, 1995, the cost is \$2,500 per person from New York. For further information, contact the UJA Western Region Office, 818/386-6970, ext. 126.

Jewish Studies Group for Lesbian and Bisexual Women

A new Jewish studies group for lesbian and bisexual women began meeting in December at the Jewish Community Center, 3200 California Street, and is still open for interested women.

The monthly chavurah focuses on Jewish tradition, history and perspectives relating to women's lifestyles and provides affirmations of positive Jewish identity for non-heterosexual women. Sidney Mintz leads the group. She is a 3rd year rabbinical student at HUC in Los Angeles. Fee for each session is \$5 for JCC members, \$8 non-members. For more information, contact Lorilee Howard, 292-1235.

New Member Potluck

All members, prospective members, families and friends of CSZ are invited to attend the next New Member Potluck on Sunday, February 26 from 4-7 PM. This event will be hosted by Mike Rankin, who lives at 5 Red Rock Way in San Francisco.

New members who have joined in the past year will be honored, and all members are encouraged to come meet, eat, and schmooze. Nonmembers who are thinking about joining CSZ are also welcome.

Please bring your favorite dish, according to the season in which you celebrate your birthday:

Winter:	Salad or appetizer
Spring:	Main dish
Summer:	Beverages
Fall:	Dessert

For more information, directions to Mike's, and to RSVP, please call Susan Stahl, 333-6198. See you there!

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new members this month. A warm welcome to the latest people to join our family:

John Atteridge

Nicole Bloom

Rick Crane

Melissa Grossman & Angela Naples

Colette Patt

We are grateful to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.



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Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions of all sizes to mark any event and to add to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in the *Forward* unless otherwise requested.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past months by the following contributors:

AIDS Fund

Ami Zusman, in memory of Don Albert.

Bikkur Cholim Fund

Annie Winters, in memory of Jeffrey Rosenstock.

Building Fund

Mary Louise Parlett, in memory of Clint Bigglestone.

San Francisco Science Fiction Conventions, in memory of Clint Bigglestone.

General Fund

Shirley Liberman & Margaret Livingston, in gratitude for the recovery of Shirley's brother from major surgery.

Anonymous, in memory of Don Albert.

Leslie Bergson, in memory of Don Albert.

Robert Tat, in memory of Don Albert.

Perry Paker, in memory of Meyer Paker.

Michael Bettinger & Robert Goldstein

Ida Kuluk, in memory of Don Albert.

Judith Einbinder, in honor of Kathy Simon.

Sharon & Leonard Silverman, in memory of Don Albert.

Jacob Robinson, in memory of Max Shore.

Walter Leiss, in memory of Don Albert.

Nancy Meyer & Marilyn O'Keeffe, in memory of Don Albert.

Florence & Steve Nacamulli, in loving memory of Judy Graham.

Herbert & Ruth Dreifuss, in honor of Dr. Allan Gold.

Sharyn Saslafsky & Catherine Dodd, in memory of Don Albert.

Richard & Dorothy Dorsay, in honor of Dr. Allan Gold.

Judy Schwartz & Carolyn Pines, in memory of Don Albert and Dolores Urban.

Robert Katz, in memory of Mario Luna.

Amy Gerstein, in honor of Kathy Simon.

Nina Jo Smith, in memory of Alan Smith and Ralph Norris.

Allan Berenstein, in memory of A. J. Berenstein.

Robert Cohen, in honor of the High Holidays.

Edward Pollock, in memory of Don Albert.

Ruth Borenstein & Karen Strauss, in honor of the marriage of Virginia Donohue and Mark Klaiman.

Inclusive Liturgy Fund

Batya Kalis, in memory of Sherman Kalis & Dorothy Hodes.

Kaiser Brunch Fund

Friends of Jim Fast, in his memory.

Florence & Steve Nacamulli, in loving memory of Lynne Yanofsky.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Shirley Liberman & Margaret Livingston, in memory of Don Albert.

Mark Bowers, in honor of Judith Cohen's successful recovery.

Sheila & Howard Klaiman, in honor of the wedding of Mark Klaiman & Virginia Donohue.

Ellen Goldstein, in memory of Fred and Miriam Goldstein.

Barry Siegel, in memory of Eric Small.

Pledges and Gifts to the Ma'ayan Campaign

As of Dec. 9, 1994

Lev Zahav (Heart of Gold) (\$1,000+)

Walter Leiss
Jerry Rosenstein
Ron Wilmot

Zahav (Gold) (\$500 - \$999)

Tiela Chalmers
Michael Chertok
Joe Hample
Alex Ingersoll & David Stein
Robin Leonard
Ronald M. Lezell
Irene Ogus
Deborah Udin
Larry Wexler
Mike Zimmerman

Kesef (Silver) (\$250 - \$499)

Diana Buchbinder
Ellie Cohen & Greta Miskatel
Stephan Howard
Alice Prussin
Jeff Rubin

Arad (Bronze) (\$100 - \$249)

Anonymous
Leonie J. Darwin
Arnie Jackson
Merry Lusk
Theodora Mauro

Ma'ayanot (All Other Gifts)

Hanya Barth
Jerry Geffner
Tova Green
Rose Katz
Janis Portal
Nathan Robinson
Stephanie Wolper & Jane Greenfield
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(415) 921-3636

East Bay ... 3415 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette
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Gene B. Kaufman, Executive Director

UAHC Urges End to Military Bias

At a time when "religious" fundamentalists are escalating their homophobic bigotry, it's good to know the leaders of Reform Judaism continue to speak with a strong voice on behalf of the rights of gay, lesbian, and bisexual people. On October 22, Rabbi David Saperstein, Director of the Religious Action Center, wrote President Clinton:

"The Union of American Hebrew Congregations has consistently supported civil rights and civil liberties for gay men, lesbians and bisexuals. . . I would like to applaud the administration's decision not to pursue another appeal in the case of [openly gay] Navy Petty Officer Keith Meinhold. . . I would like to voice my opposition to any additional actions to remove Petty Officer Meinhold under the new policy. . . Meinhold's openness has not hindered the readiness or the effectiveness of his crew. . . The Union of American Hebrew Congregations would like to reaffirm its opposition to any policy that would exclude gay men and lesbians from serving in the military."

The Bar Mitzvah of Max Rossoff Nichols



will be on January 14



Anniversaries

January

- | | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Lawney Baldwin & Tony Vernola |
| 1 | Sharon Tanenbaum & Matricia Person |
| 5 | Ellen Elias & Robyn Bramhall |
| 15 | Barbara Becker & Ellen Press |
| 16 | Ida Kuluk & Susan Spott |
| 23 | Stephen & Trudi Hauptman |
| 28 | Stephanie Wolper & Jane Greenfield |
| 29 | Andrea Palash & Dianne Hawk |



Pilgrimage Update

Miracle in Poland

—Johanna Ceapach Choinn

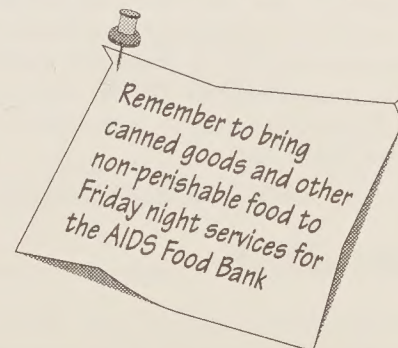
On the last night of Chanukah, in KL Auschwitz I, the infamous concentration camp, in the year 5755, a little miracle occurred. Delegates for peace and understanding from many countries prayerfully walked a mile or so from their meeting center. Polish faces peered out of windows at the pilgrims wending their way toward the iron gate that bears the searing words "Arbeit Macht Frei."

The night was dark and cold. Ice had glazed over the streets during the day but had started to melt a bit after sundown. The 200 pilgrims walked up to the locked gate. "Arbeit Macht Frei" took on another meaning now: Work for peace will make us free; work for justice will make us free; work for human dignity will make us free; work for tikkun olam will make us free.

Rabbis Sheila Weinberg and Everett Gendler led the group in chanting the Chanukah b'rachot and they stood there with their simple Chanukiot (made from tongue depressors, rocks from Birkenau concentration camp and brass nuts for candle holders) emanating a radiance of life and love and joy.

Yo yisa goy el goy cherev, v'lo yilm'du od milchama. Nation shall not rise up against nation; they shall not learn war any more.

Ken y'hi ratzon — may it be thy will.



Hanukkah party. Photo by Michael Bettinger.

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The Jewish Gaily Forward is published by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, 861-6932. Permission to reproduce material is freely given, and credit would be appreciated.

Members of the congregation receive the *Forward*. For \$18/year, nonmembers will receive a *Forward* subscription.

Members of the Newsletter Committee

Chair: Joe Hample (621-7675)

Editorial Coordinator: Batya Kalis (821-3855)

Layout Coordinator: Rose Katz

Final Proofer: Martha Moon

Editing/Proofreading/Layout: John Bachert, Alison Cohen, Stephan Howard, Richard Inlander, Robin Leonard, Mary McMillan, Donna Rabinowitz, Sam Walters, Neil Yoskowitz

Photography: Michael Bettinger

Advertising: open

Distribution: Alison Cohen, Sara Haber, Lisa Halton, Stan Kern, Gordon Osser, Sam Thal, David Weinstein, Eli Weinstein, Sylvia Weisenberg

Typesetting: David Lester, Mouse Type Inc.

Printing: Genesis Printing & Graphics

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for nonmembers and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words. No personals accepted.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste.

Classifieds

BOOKKEEPING, ACCOUNTING, BUSINESS MANAGEMENT services. Monthly, weekly, year-end tax prep. No job too small. Judy Graboyes, 415/285-2168.

NEED A BABYSITTER? I'm 13 years old, responsible, level-headed, and fun. Graduate of JCC babysitting class. Call Ethan Frazin, 337-4566.

SHORT TERM SHARE RENTAL. Need a place to live for a few weeks or a few months? Near UC Med, parking, laundry. Great apt. Woman only. \$300-\$450 neg. Sylvia, 665-1912.

Synagogue Information

Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Officers:

President, Tiela Chalmers (431-4312)

Administrative Vice President,

David Stein (863-4769)

Program Vice President,

Nathan Robinson

Treasurer, Michael Zimmerman

Recorder, Cheryl Bryan

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Program Coordinator, Sydney Levy

Kadimah Principal, Phyllis Mintzer

Rabbi Kahn's Asst., Amy Clark

Committee Chairs:

Archives, Bill Goldstein

Bequests and Donations, Richard Inlander

Bikkur Cholim, David Shaber

Brotherhood, Stephan Howard

Building, Ellen Gierson

Bylaws, Edward Pollock

Cemetery, Richard Inlander

Children's Chavurah, Jody Adelberg and Nancy Meyer

Cookbook Project, Robin Leonard and Rose Katz

Dues, Lisa Katz

Education, Judith Cohen

Endowment Fund, Richard Inlander

Finance, Brett Trueman

Fine Arts, Alice Prussin

Fundraising, Michael Zimmerman and Ellie Cohen

Gift Shop, Jeff Rubin

Israel Chavurah, Ron Lezell

Leadership Development, Irene Ogus

Long-Range Planning, Allan Gold

Membership, Sara Haber and Larry Wexler

Newsletter, Joe Hample (621-7675)

Oneg, Michael Whitman

Past Presidents Council, Merry Luskin

Personnel, David Stein

Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky

Religious School, Trudi Hauptman

Ritual, Ora Prochovnick

Social Action, Eloise Magenheimer

Social Program, by committee

Volunteer Coordinator, Robin Leonard

Women's Chavurah, Donna Rabinowitz

Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair are invited to obtain his or her number from the synagogue office.

Office Hours: Monday-Friday from 9 am to 3 pm. Please call the synagogue office at 861-6932.

Emergency Number: In an emergency, the congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 861-6938.

Bikkur Cholim: If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav are ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have the rabbi or a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office.

Member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Mike Rankin, Robin Leonard, Allyce Kimerling, liaisons) and of the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations (Lane Schickler, liaison).

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 pm (except as noted), with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the second Saturday of each month at 10:30 am—check calendar for each month.

Gift Shop Hours: Fridays, 7:30–8:05 pm.

Library Hours: Open during office hours, and 30 minutes before and after Friday night services.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav (Congregation of the Golden Gate) is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th and Market streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus 33 Stanyan to 18th and Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

**The Gaily Forward is looking for a distribution coordinator.
Call Joe Hample, 621-7675**

1 Sunday 29 Tevet	10 Tuesday 9 Shevat	17 Tuesday 16 Shevat	25 Wednesday 24 Shevat
2 Monday 1 Shevat • 6 pm, Healing Service	11 Wednesday 10 Shevat • 7 pm, Newsletter editing • 7:15 pm, Herstory: A Woman's Eye View of the Jewish Experience • 8:30 pm, Introduction to Prayerbook Hebrew	18 Wednesday 17 Shevat • 7:15 pm, Herstory: A Woman's Eye View of the Jewish Experience • 8:30 pm, Introduction to Prayerbook Hebrew	• 7:15 pm, Herstory: A Woman's Eye View of the Jewish Experience • 8:30 pm, Introduction to Prayerbook Hebrew
3 Tuesday 2 Shevat	12 Thursday 11 Shevat • 7 pm, Children's Education meeting	19 Thursday 18 Shevat • 6:30 pm, Bikkur Cholim meeting	26 Thursday 25 Shevat • 6:30 pm, Ritual Committee meeting
4 Wednesday 3 Shevat • 7:15 pm, Herstory: A Woman's Eye View of the Jewish Experience • 8:30 pm, Introduction to Prayerbook Hebrew	13 Friday 12 Shevat • 8:15 pm, Shabbat service led by Jonathan Comisar	20 Friday 19 Shevat • UAH Regional Biennial • 8:15 pm, Shabbat service • East Bay Shabbat service led by Larry Wexler	27 Friday 26 Shevat • 7 pm, Pre-school Shabbat • 8:15 pm, Shabbat service led by Mike Rankin and Dana Vinicoff
5 Thursday 4 Shevat	14 Saturday 13 Shevat • 9:30 am, Kadimah • 10:30 am, Shabbat service: Bar Mitzvah of Max Rossoff Nichols; services led by Kathy Simon, Jonathan Comisar and Josh Lee	21 Saturday 20 Shevat • UAH Regional Biennial • 9:30 am, Kadimah	28 Saturday 27 Shevat • 9:30 am, Kadimah
6 Friday 5 Shevat • Marin/Sonoma Chavurah Shabbat service at the home of Shirley Liberman and Margaret Livingston (707/829-8876) • 8:15 pm, Shabbat service led by Ruth Schoenbach & Larry Wexler	15 Sunday 14 Shevat	22 Sunday 21 Shevat • UAH Regional Biennial	29 Sunday 28 Shevat • 10:30 am, Kaiser Brunch • 3 pm, Women's Chavurah Theatre Rhino outing
7 Saturday 6 Shevat • 9:30 am, Kadimah	16 Monday 15 Shevat Tu B'Shevat • 6 pm, Healing Service • 7 pm, Newsletter proofreading/layout	23 Monday 22 Shevat	30 Monday 29 Shevat • Bay Area Jewish Education week begins
8 Sunday 7 Shevat		24 Tuesday 23 Shevat	31 Tuesday 30 Shevat
9 Monday 8 Shevat • 6:30 pm, Va'ad meeting			

Note: Gray areas indicate religious services.

FEBRUARY FORWARD DEADLINES

FOR ADVERTISING MONDAY, JANUARY 2

To place a display ad, call Joe Hample (621-7675).
To place a classified ad, call the office.

FOR ARTICLES MONDAY, JANUARY 9

Write us an article! Please submit it both on 3½-inch disk and on paper (*double spaced*). Write "Attn: Gaily Forward" on top and mail to CSZ. No deadline extensions without advance permission from the editorial coordinator (821-3855).

East Bay Services

- 1/20 Judy Schwartz & Carolyn Pines, 2821 55th Ave., Oakland, 510/532-9661
- 2/17 Susan Tubbesing & Sarah Nathe, 3433 Brunell Dr., Oakland, 510/482-3740
- 3/17 Ed Tanovitz, 1612 East 38th St., Oakland, 510/482-4825

Please join us for dinner at a nearby restaurant. For details call Shelley Spiro, 510/482-5967.

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